On the 25th April 1907, Princess Setu Parvathi Bhai, the Junior Rani, was married to M. R. Ry. Ravi Varma Avergal, B. A., Koil Tampuran.

3. Land Revenue.—The year was a normal one from an agricultural point of view. The net current land revenue demand rose from Rs. 25,26,959 in 1081 to Rs. 29,06,033 in 1082. Out of the increase of Rs. 3,79,104, the introduction of settlement rates in 7 taluks accounted for about Rs. 1,61,000, the remaining two and odd lakhs of increase being mostly due to the fact that the paddy revenue which, previous to the abolition of taxation in kind, was credited in the accounts at 6 chs. per para, has since been credited at 11 chs. per para, the latter being the new commutation rate fixed by Government. Out of the net demand of Rs. 29,06,033, the collections amounted to Rs. 28,61,775, *i. e.* about 98½ per cent. of the demand was collected, as against about 95 per cent. in the previous year.

In regard to the arrears of land revenue, the demand for the year was Rs. 3,75,514, out of which a sum of Rs. 1,11,282 was collected and Rs. 96,925 written off the accounts, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 1,67,307 at the end of the year. Out of this balance, a sum of about Rs. 95,000 is said to refer to disputed items. Steps are being taken to enquire into the reasons for the pendency of the disputes, which account for nearly a lakh of rupees of arrears.

You are aware that Government sanctioned some time ago a scheme for the conversion into money of that portion of the land tax, which had been hitherto paid in kind. This scheme came into full operation during the year under report, and from the information before Government, the change has been attended with the most beneficial results.

4. Survey.—The cadastral survey of the State having been completed in 1081, the work of the Survey Department was confined during the year to certain special and miscellaneous surveys. The annual expenditure for survey has been reduced from about Rs. 82,000 to about Rs. 30,000, the saving effected being thus a little over half a lakh of rupees. A small and efficient survey staff will, in the opinion of Government, always be necessary in the State.

5. Revenue Settlement.—The revenue settlement continued to make progress. In two taluks the settlement of which was over in 1081, the new rates were introduced in 1082, and the settlement of five fresh taluks was finished and the new rates introduced in them during the year. The result in all the seven taluks was to raise the land revenue demand from Rs. 4,53,192 to Rs. 6,13,974, an increase of about 35 per cent. I take this opportunity to convey to you the assurance of Government that the work of the Settlement Department is being carefully watched and effective action is being taken to ensure that its operations are finished without undue delay. A capable officer, having the confidence of Government, is now at the head of the department and Government feel assured that the interests of the people as well as of the public revenue are safe in his hands.

6. Land Records Maintenance.—Government took steps during the year to organize a land records staff for the purpose of keeping survey records up to date. The charges on this account for all the 18 taluks already settled amount to about Rs. 11,000 per annum. Government have reasons to apprehend that, in

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some of the older settled taluks, the land records are already much out of date. An enquiry will soon be made in regard to this.

7. Work of Peishkars and Tahsildars.—Government are unable to speak of the work of these officers with satisfaction. One of the most important functions of the permanent land revenue staff is the prompt disposal of applications for waste lands, otherwise called puduvals. In the interests of the public revenue, as well as in the interests of the ryots themselves, it is very necessary that these puduval cases should not be delayed. It is however found that, out of 13,131 cases of applications for registry of puduvals, the Land Revenue Department disposed of only 4,552, in other words, the out-turn of work was about a third of the total volume to be done. Again, another very important function of the normal land revenue staff is to effect transfers of registry of revenue holdings, so that our revenue records may tally as far as possible with the actual ownership and enjoyment of lands. Out of 27,713 applications for transfers of registry for disposal, the revenue staff disposed of 17,121 cases and ended the year with a balance of 10,592. In extenuation of these heavy arrears, the plea has been put forward by more than one Peishkar that the subordinate revenue staff is under-manned and ill-paid and that it is therefore unable to cope with the volume of work coming before it. This plea will soon be examined. Steps will be taken to re-organize the taluk and village staff wherever such re-organization may appear necessary and steps will also be taken to enforce an adequate out-turn of work from all officers in the Revenue Department.

8. Legislation.—Four Regulations were passed during the year, *viz.*, the Extradition Regulation, the Charitable Endowments Regulation, the Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Regulation and the Regulation to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Of the above four, the first was passed by His Highness the Maha Raja direct, the other three being passed in due course by the Legislative Council and assented to by His Highness.

9. Police.—There was no change worth mentioning either in the constitution or in the work of the Police Department during the year. The Superintendent of Police has brought to notice that no material improvement in the work of his department can be effected unless the pay of the subordinate ranks is improved. Government observe that, out of 46 Police Inspectors, 20 draw salaries not exceeding Rs. 40 per mensem and that, out of 1,498 constables, more than half draw only Rs. 6 per mensem. The necessity for a revision of the scale of pay of the subordinate ranks of the Police force will be borne in mind.

10. The Administration of Justice.—There was nothing noteworthy in the administration of criminal justice during the year, but there was a large increase of original civil suits. The number of these filed during the year rose from 44,512 in 1081 to 48,981 in 1082. Since the year 1070, the original civil litigation of the State has risen by over 63 per cent., the advance being shared by all Courts. Though the disposal of original civil suits showed a marked increase during the year, it did not keep pace with the increased volume of work, the result being that the arrears rose from 10,836 on the last day of 1031 to 12,540 on the last day of 1082. Again, in regard to appeals, the arrears have risen considerably during the last four

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